(c) the details of projects likely to be completed, year-wise, during coming three years and during the Ninth Five Year Plan period under the scheme;

(d) whether Government are satisfied with the response of the private sector, if not, what are the problems being faced by the private sector; and

(e) what is Government's plan to remove the obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NH) only, all other roads fall within the purview of respective State Govts. A decision has already by taken to attract private investment in the development of NH Projects. Necessary guidelines for taking BOT Projects on NH have already been formulated and circulated to all State Govts.

(b) and (c) Details of the projects taken up and the year of completion is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the BOT Project	NH No.	State	Year of completion
1	2.	3	4	5
1.	Thane Bhiwandi Bypass	3 & 4	Maharashtra	Completed in June, 1997
2.	Chaltan ROB	8	Gujarat	May, 1998
3.	Udaipur Bypass	8	Rajasthan	April, 1998
4.	Six bridges	5	Andhra Pradesh	April, 2002
5.	Coimbatore Bypass	47	Tamil Nadu	December, 1999
6.	Durg Bypass	6	Madhya Pradesh	June, 2000

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Privatisation Policy on Road Sector is dynamic and various issues are attended to as as and when they arise.

Private Sector in port Development

107. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether port development has been entrusted to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of response of the private sector so far?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Govt. has issued clear and transparent guidelines for private sector participation in Major Ports to cover the following areas:—

(1) Leasing out existing assets of the port.

(2) Construction/Creation of additional assests; such as:

(i) Construction and operation of container terminals.

(ii) Construction and operation of bulk, break bulk, multipurpose and specialised cargo berths.

(iii) Warehousing, constainer Freight Stations, Storage Facilities and Tank Farms.

(iv) Cranage/Handling Equipment.

(v) Setting up of Captive power plants.

(vi) Dry docking and ship repair facilities.

(3) Leasing of equipment of port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.

(4) Pilotage.

(5) Captive facilities for port based industries.

(c) A list of approved private sector participation projects is annexed as statement.*

Efficiency in port operations

108. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the efficiency of port operations is suffering due to congestion of ports;

(b) the names of ports that require immediate decongestion;

(c) whether Government have initiated ahy action to effect decongestion of the ports, both in the short-term and long-term; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ports of Mumbai, Kandla, Visakhapatnam and Madras require immediate decongestion.

(c) and (d) A campaign has been launched with effect from September 1. 1997 to reduce the pre-berthing detention for the vessels at the Major Ports; improving productivity and to reduce congestion.

Improvement of National Highways

109. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned seventeen projects worth Rs. 17.6 crores for improvement of national Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the amount of money sanctioned for national Highways in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Total number of projects approved so far are 192 and their sanctioned cost is about Rs. 181.64 crores.

(c) Nine Projects with a total cost of Rs. 850.36 lakhs have been sanctioned upto 11.11.1997 for National Highways in North-Eastern States.

Mumbai Port Trust Plan to Tackle Ship Wreckages

110. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has obtained a detailed time frame from the Mumbai Port Trust on its plan to tackle the ship wreckages either sunk or run around the port;

(b) if so, whether the port authorities have submitted their plan and if not, what deadline has been given for submission thereof; and

(c) the number of vessels wreckages took place in the Mumbai Port Trust?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A total of six ship wrecks are lying in the northern port of the Bombay Harbour. There is a plan to remove only the wreck of dredger 'Vishal'. Seven ship wrecks are lying in the central and southern part of the harbour and the port has planned to remove all of them. All the above vessels do not impede navigation. Five more wrecks are lying outside the port limits and there is no plan to remove them.

*(For statement please refer to the statement annexed to the answer of Unstarred Question 105)